GOLD HILL
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 26, GOLD HILL, OR. 97525 Phone (503)855-1182 January,1994

While working on the Planning Commission, Genevieve Heil, started the first listing of historic properties within the city limits of Gold Hill. In the process, she mentioned the many older historic homes to Jono Nutter, who was the city maintenance man. Jono told Gene about many boxes of old city records that were stored in the city's maintenance shed.

When Janet Sessions moved to town a kindred spirit was found. Together Gene and Janet founded the Gold Hill Historical Society.

Janet's sister, Anne Millbrooke, who works as an historian in Connecticut was contacted for her expertise, as was Nick Clark, who was Executive Director of the Southern Oregon Historical Society. The first meeting was held January 20, 1986. The following people were elected officers at that meeting: Genevieve Heil, President; Tom Cushman, Vice President; and Janet Sessions, Secretary/Treasurer.

The purpose of the Gold Hill Historical Society is to promote, preserve and interpret the rich history of Gold Hill and surrounding areas. The boundaries of the Gold Hill Historical Society encompass a five mile radius. This area includes Sams Valley, Tolo, Willow Springs and down river to Foots Creek.

The same year that we were founded, we set several goals for our Society. We had the State Highway Department put up a sign for the Rock Creek Cemetery, designed and adopted our by-laws, set up boundaries for the Society, and found a temporary site for our acquisitions.

The second year our membership grew from 28 members to 59.

During our second year we started maintaining the Dardanelles marker, helping with the annual clean up of Rock Point Cemetery, and cataloguing the city records.

Our third year we became a formal non profit Historical Society.

We now share the County Historical tax funds, with the other Historical Societies in Jackson County. We are also affiliated with the Oregon Historical Society.

Our membership is now 117 family memberships and growing. In 1993 we purchased a permanent home at 504 First Avenue, spent five months refurbishing it, and celebrated our Grand Opening on January 8, 1994.

Other activities we are involved with include participation with the Gold Hill schools, the Nugget Club and we join the festivities annually during Gold Dust Days.

We have succeeded in promoting local history at our schools. Some years the young people from Hanby Junior High have hosted fund raisers to help us promote the rich history of our area. In two years, the money raised amounted to over $650.00.

Each August we have a potluck picnic and recap our years accomplishments, and relax and enjoy each others company.

If you think you would like to join us in our undertaking to promote, preserve and interpret the history of our community, please use the form included on the back.

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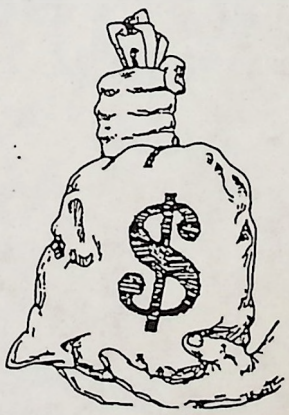
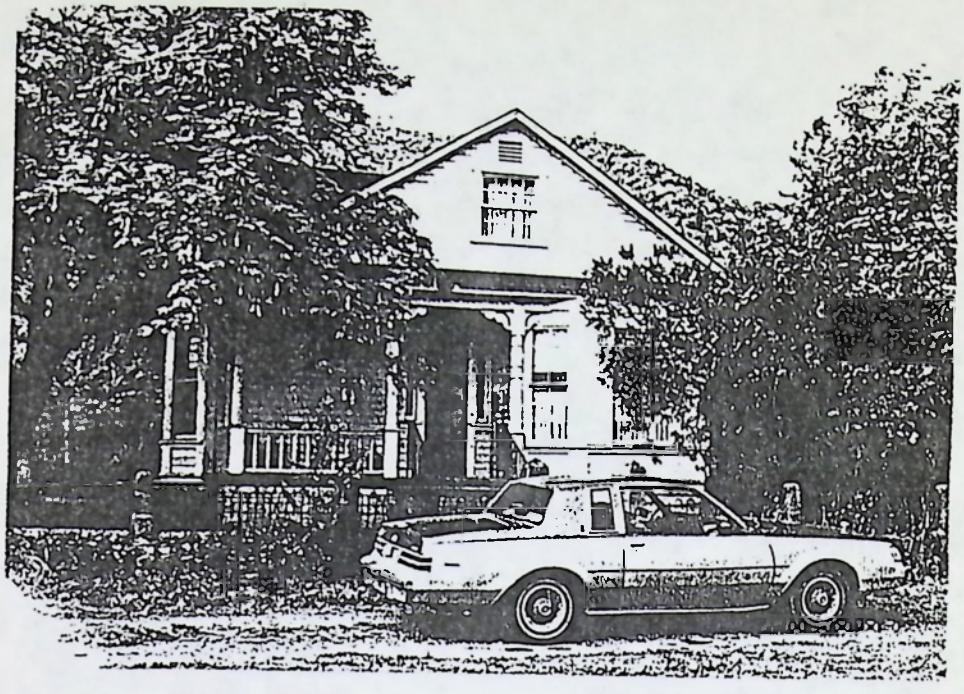
DID YOU KNOW?

Gold Hill got its name from the mountain south east of the city. A large ledge of gold was discovered on the south eastern side of the mountain January 13, 1857. The State of Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industry officially recorded the amount found as $700,000. If this was priced at $16.00 an ounce that would be 43,750 ounces. At 1990 prices that same amount of gold would be worth $15,312,500.00!!!





Gold Hill Historical Society Museum, 504 First Avenue, Gold Hill, Oregon 97525

Meetings: Third Wednesday of each month, 7:00 P. M., in the museum.

Gold Hill Historical Society
Membership Form

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*Name*_____

*Street Address*_____

*Mailing Address*_____

*City, State, Zip*_____

*Phone*_____

☐ *Family Membership $5.00 Per Year*
☐ *Contribution*
☐ *Yes, I would like to volunteer*

Return To:
Gold Hill Historical Society
P. O. Box 26
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525